

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1233

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman will state it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, with the knowledge that there are over some 120 amendments, my understanding is that there will be an announcement that the committee now rise and a proposed rule.

My inquiry is, is this the end of the Committee of the Whole, and does this mean that the amendments of Democrats who wanted to impact on the \$87 billion, over 100 amendments will now be denied and issues dealing with our troops in Iraq, will not be able to be responded to by these amendments?

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair is about to entertain a simple motion to rise. The Chair is not able to respond to the gentlewoman's inquiry with respect to future events that may take place in the House.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) having assumed the chair, Mr. LATOURETTE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction for Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will state it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that we have called for the committee to rise and we are now in the full House under H.R. 3289.

My inquiry is, are we about to enter into a discussion on a rule that will supersede the submitting, if you will, of amendments by Members of this body? My understanding is that we passed an open rule, and we had at least 100 or more amendments offered by Members from both sides of the aisle, many of them dealing with the quality-of-life issues of our troops, many of them dealing with the mental health issues with respect to the huge numbers of suicides, many of them dealing with

bulletproof vests, but focusing on the intent of H.R. 3289, which is a supplemental that funds the actions in Iraq with respect to our troops, but also deals with the Iraqi reconstruction.

My concern is whether or not debate is now going to cease because of this newly presented rule and the basis upon which the House now moves to implement a rule that supersedes the original rule that allowed us to have the opportunity to present our amendments.

I believe the American people deserve an answer, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot give an advisory opinion on a hypothetical situation which may arise. The gentlewoman raises a proper question for debate during the debate on the rule.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. May I inquire as to the next step of the proceedings of this House with respect to H.R. 3289? Are we about to enter into a discussion on a rule eliminating debate?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to recognize a member of the Committee on Rules to call up a rule.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I would appreciate very much if we would be able to get an answer. Is the Chair yielding to the Committee on Rules?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to recognize a member of the Committee on Rules.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Will we get an answer at that point whether debate will cease?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is a proper question for debate on the rule.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. And we will get a proper answer as to whether debate will cease and desist? But the intent of the rule is to cease and desist our debate and to cut off debate on these amendments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is a proper question for the debate on the rule.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3289, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 401 ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 401

Resolved, That, during further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes in the Committee of the Whole, the bill shall be considered as read and no further motion or amendment shall be in order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 401 provides that H.R. 3289, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, shall be considered as read, and that no further motion or amendment shall be in order.

Mr. Speaker, the House began debate 3 days ago on this emergency appropriations bill that provides for the needs and protection of our troops in Iraq. The unanimous consent agreement provided for 5 hours of general debate that began on Wednesday. The House resumed debate yesterday morning with discussion and consideration of amendments lasting well into last night. The House began a third day of debate this morning with consideration of 13 amendments.

After hours and days of debate, delay of a final vote on the emergency supplemental bill means a delay in getting the men and women in our military the resources and the equipment that they need. This rule, H. Res. 401, would end the delay and give our troops the funding they require and the support that they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, this rule is a travesty, but certainly no surprise. In the years since the Republican Party took control of this body, their leadership has made a concerted effort to strip away the rights of Members of the House of Representatives, bit by bit by bit. This rule is just more of the same, and every Member of this House who believes in the small "d" democratic process should vote to defeat it.

The Republican Party's leadership has been nothing short of disingenuous about the debate on this supplemental.

Mr. Speaker, this has been anything but an open process. There have been some very important discussions on the floor, but those discussions have been truncated. Over 120 amendments were noticed to this bill, yet, despite the fact that there is obviously so much interest on the part of Members of the House in this \$87 billion bill, the Republican leadership is now cutting off the last opportunity to bring over half of those amendments to the floor.